

THE DRIVER EXAMINATION

VISION SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

All applicants for a license or permit are required to satisfy the minimum vision standards established by the Bureau. This is true even if the applicant is renewing an existing license. If you normally wear glasses while driving, please be sure to bring your glasses with you so that you will be able to pass the vision screening. The vision screening will involve testing of an applicant's visual acuity and visual fields.

If your visual ability does not meet state standards, you will be referred to an eye doctor for examination. You may return to the license branch with a statement from an eye doctor certifying that your vision has been corrected to meet the state standard; however, you will still be required to submit to a vision screening at the license branch.

Following are some of the most frequent restriction codes placed on a license due to vision:

- A** Glasses or contact lenses
- B** Outside rearview mirrors
- C** Daylight driving only

Reading without Glasses

One Eye	One Eye
20/20 through 20/40	20/20 through 20/40
Other Eye	Other Eye
20/20 through 20/40	20/50 through Blind
No Restriction	B Restriction

Reading with Glasses

One Eye	One Eye	One Eye	One Eye
20/20 through 20/40	20/50	20/50	20/70
Other Eye	Other Eye	Other Eye	Other Eye
20/50 through Blind	20/50	20/70 through Blind	20/70
AB Restriction	A Restriction	A B C Restriction	A B C Restriction

NOTE: An "A" restriction will be added anytime an applicant is wearing a contact lens while having his or her vision screened.

Visual Field Requirements

One Eye	One Eye
55 degrees – 85 degrees	55 degrees – 85 degrees + nasal in same eye
Other Eye	Other Eye
55 degrees – 85 degrees	NR = no reading
No Restrictions	B Restriction

NOTE: If glasses or contacts are required for acuity an "A" restriction will be required. A minimum reading of 90 degree visual field is required for an Indiana Operator, Chauffeur, Public Passenger Chauffeur, Driver Ed Learner permit, learner permit or Motorcycle learner permit.

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

A written examination is required for:

- Applicants applying for a learner permit;
- First- time applicants who apply for a specific driver license type (i.e., operator, chauffeur, or public passenger chauffeur license)
- Persons who hold a valid license but who have not reached age 21 upon renewal or changing type of license
- Persons who hold an out -of -state license and who are applying for an Indiana driver license
- Persons whose Indiana license is expired for two years or more and/or;
- Applicants who have six or more active points on his or her Indiana driving record.

Contents of the Written Examination:

Written examinations are based on information contained in this manual. Passage of the written examination demonstrates basic understanding of Indiana traffic laws and safe driving techniques.

Written examinations include multiple choice questions concerning traffic maneuvers, and knowledge of types of traffic signs.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO REVIEW ARE AT THE END OF CHAPTER THREE

If you fail to pass a test, you must wait until the next business day to take the test again. **An applicant can not take the road test until he or she successfully passes the written test.**

NOTE: *An applicant who holds a driver education permit may only fail three examinations (i.e.; a combination of written and drive tests) when applying for an operator license. Failure of three examinations while holding a driver education permit will require the individual to meet the requirements to obtain a learner permit to hold for at least 60 days, and be at least 16 and 180 days of age before applying for their operator license.*

An individual who holds a learner permit may only fail three (3) drive examinations when applying for an operator license. Failure of three (3) examinations will require the individual to hold the permit until the month it expires before applying for a new permit

All applicants must have the ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic, as well as knowledge of Indiana traffic laws. The BMV may not issue a license or permit to an individual who is unable to understand highway warnings or direction signs written in the English language.

Written Knowledge Examination for CDL holders: The written knowledge examinations for a CDL are considerably different in type and substance than the other written examinations. **Please refer to the Commercial Driver License Manual for more information concerning written examinations** required for a CDL. Visit: <http://www.in.gov/dor> (forms and publications) or www.bmvexpress.IN.gov (driver license).

ROADWAY SKILLS TEST

After you pass your vision screening and your written test (if applicable), the examiner will test your ability to drive by riding with you and observing how well you control the vehicle and observe the Indiana rules of the road. There is no charge for the drive test administered by the BMV driver examiner.

When Required:

The following applicants for an Indiana operator license must take a roadway test, conducted by a BMV driver examiner of their ability to operate a vehicle safely:

- Persons holding an Indiana learner permit, unless the person qualifies for the driver education drive test waiver described below;
- New Indiana residents who hold an out-of-state license that has been expired for more than one year;
- New Indiana residents who hold an out-of-country license and have applied for a learner permit;
- Indiana residents whose driver licenses have been expired for three or more years, or
- Other applicants as required by BMV.

The Driver Education Drive Test Waiver:

The BMV shall waive the road test requirement for a person who has passed a driver education course given by a commercial driver school or high school driver education program with a B or above in the classroom and behind-the-wheel portions, if the school or program participates in the BMV waiver program as described in 140 IAC 4-4-89. Once a student has passed a standardized drive test with the school and is granted a waiver, he or she must successfully pass both a mandatory written test and vision-screening test before a driver license may be issued. The school participating in the BMV waiver program may charge an additional fee for the drive test. **Note: Only one drive test can be administered by the school prior to any BMV testing**

Loss of the Waiver Privilege: The waiver is not available if:

- the driver education learner permit has expired prior to the application for an operator license;
- the applicant has a grade in classroom or driving instruction of B- or below indicated on the driver education learner permit, or
- the applicant fails to pass the written test

NOTE: Remember the three- failed- exam rule! Study the manual before taking the examination.

Drive Test Scheduling:

To serve new drivers efficiently, driver examiners perform drive tests on an appointment-only basis. Therefore, it is important that new applicants for an operator license call the license branch in advance to set up an appointment.

NOTE: BMV driver examiners cannot administer drive tests when weather conditions are hazardous.

Requirements before the Drive Test: Upon successful completion of the vision and written knowledge tests (if applicable), the driver examiner will administer the drive test providing that the following conditions are met:

- Presentation of the proper documents (i.e. permit or license);
- Presentation of a written test affidavit (if applicable);
- Applicant's driver status must be "valid."
- The applicant must provide a vehicle (the State does not provide one.);
- The vehicle must be legally equipped and in safe and clean condition;

- The vehicle provided is properly registered (**a signed vehicle registration must be provided**);
- The applicant is accompanied by a person holding a valid driver license in his or her possession (if applicable);
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate to the driver examiner that he or she is able to understand highway warnings or direction signs in the English language (IC 9-24-2-3(4)).

Before proceeding with the test and after checking the items listed above, the examiner will check the car to make sure that it is legally equipped and in safe operating condition. The examiner may refuse to ride with the applicant if the car is not clean and safe. Please don't waste your time or the examiner's time with a dirty or faulty car.

General Components of the Drive Test:

Try to approach the driving test as calmly as possible. You will be tested only on regular, ordinary driving skills. The test is designed to find out if you can make the car do the right thing at the right time under different types of conditions, smoothly and safely.

NOTE: *Although examiners are encouraged to wear a seat belt when administering the driving test, the law does exempt them from wearing it if they feel it would restrict them from reacting in a dangerous situation. (IC 9-24-10 exemptions)*

The driver examiner wants to put you at ease and will ask you a few questions that are required before you begin driving. His or her job is to examine the applicant's driving ability, not to provide instruction. He or she will not trick the applicant into making a driving error. Please do not distract the examiner. The examiner's job is to give an applicant a fair and objective test based on what he or she observes. You should not interrupt the examiner's observations and scoring as the test proceeds. The examiner will score the test under well-established and well-defined rules.

NOTE: *No one except the applicant and the examiner or examiner trainer/supervisor may be in the car during the drive test.*

BMV driver examiners use a standardized form to evaluate an applicant's ability to operate a vehicle safely.

The following are some examples of the actions that result in failure of the drive test:

- Speeding
- Failure to obey road signs or traffic laws
- Failure to obey school zone rules
- Failure to stop for school buses with the stop arm extended
- Straddles marked lanes
- Driving too close to pedestrians, bicycles or vehicles
- Driving left of center
- Failure to pull over and stop for emergency vehicles
- Running off the roadway
- Backing over the curb when parallel parking
- Having an accident or making contact with another vehicle
- Failure to react to hazardous driving conditions
- Failure to yield right of way
- Turning from improper lanes
- Failure to stop at stoplights or stop signs completely

- Failure to follow instructions
- Showing that driving ability does not meet requirements by accumulation of 11 points

The following are some examples of actions that may accumulate point deductions:

- Failure to use defroster or wipers when needed
- Failure to use both hands on the wheel
- Selecting the wrong gear
- Failure to signal
- Driving too slowly for conditions
- Overrunning a crosswalk/stop line/stop sign
- Stopping unnecessarily
- Failure to turn into correct lane (i.e. nearest lane)
- Failure to check blind spot
- Slowing speed when changing lanes
- Backing too fast
- Leaving turn signal on after completed lane change
- Driving too closely to the vehicle ahead or a parked vehicle

The examiner will tell the applicant where to drive and where to turn. The examiner will tell the applicant soon enough for the applicant to see that the way is clear and to plan their actions accordingly. The examiner will take notes on the way the applicant handles the vehicle and pays special attention to the following items:

- Whether the applicant drives in the proper lane, obeys the lane markings, looks carefully and signals properly before changing lanes.
- The distance the applicant allows between his or her vehicle and the vehicle ahead, leaving enough space to avoid a collision.
- The applicant's reaction to being overtaken and passed by another vehicle. Did the applicant maintain speed and give the other vehicle enough room in which to pass safely?
- The applicant's speed control according to posted speed limits and varying traffic conditions.
- The applicant's general observance of good defensive driving habits.
- How well the applicant listens to instructions and observes general traffic flow.
- How did he or she approach the intersection? Did he or she approach at the proper speed? Did he or she look for other vehicles? Did he or she come to complete stops? Did the applicant anticipate that the light might change? Did he or she try to beat a yellow before it changed to red?
- Whether the applicant had good backing skills. Did the applicant back correctly out of the parking space?
- The applicant's parallel parking ability. Did the applicant check traffic by looking in the rear-view mirror and did they signal the intention to park? How well did the applicant position the vehicle before backing? Did he or she move into the space smoothly and at the proper speed? The way the applicant parks tells the examiner a great deal about how you pay attention to traffic and how well the applicant can control the vehicle in reverse. **Parking is illustrated in chapter three.**

<p>NOTE: <i>Applicants who fail the drive test must wait 14 days before taking another drive test.</i></p>

Restrictions on the Driver License:

In many instances restrictions may be placed on a driver license. These restrictions allow persons to operate a vehicle but only under conditions that ensure safety to the driver and to the public. The most common restrictions are placed on a license due to results of the vision screening and appear in the lower left-hand corner of the data portion of the driver license and are described on the back of the license (*Refer to the vision screening requirement section.*) If you have any questions pertaining to a restriction on your license, please contact your local license branch. Following are some other restrictions that may be placed on a driver license.

D	Automatic transmission	3	Photo exempt
U	Power steering	4	Special BMV restriction
V	PP Chauffeur (taxi only)	5	Conditional
K	CDL Intrastate only	6	Interlock ignition device
P	Class C Public Passenger	7	Seat belt exempt (medical condition)
L	Vehicle without air brakes	8	Medical condition (require medication)

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